

January 7, 2019

Agricultural Water Advisory Committee – January 7, 2019 Meeting

Agenda Item 5.2 - Open Space Credit

Comments made by an Agricultural Water Advisory Committee Member concerning Water Rates during their 1/17/19 discussion of Open Space Credit Policy:

Simple fact: Water rates are going up and a Farmer is having to choose whether to profitably farm their land or not, or can't; they should just sell it for the best price available and walk away.

LAFCO Agency is concerned with no net loss of Open Space in Santa Clara County and does not mention Agriculture. They don't care about what is being farmed as long as there are no structures built. If you can't incorporate your land into Gilroy or Morgan Hill you're not going to do a whole lot with it.

It is Inherently unfair to have one public agency making a farmer's life more expensive, while another public agency says you can't go to Kaufman and Broad or J R Horton Homes and sell your property at \$500K-\$700K per acre and provide for your families--- the Farmer is stuck.

Ranchettes are real, but more real if you have a 4,000 – 5,000-acre ranch, and you have 50 acres but can only have a lot split of 40 and someone's going to give you \$1,000 an acre and put a house on it, that's about it.

Two public agencies squeezing the 'guy in the middle' and it is inherently unfair. What can the Water District do? Nothing since the District has no control over LAFCO.

Someone has to stop this from happening.

Fairest thing to do is have Santa Clara County purchase from a Farmer that wants to sell their land, and if someone like "Kaufman and Broad" wants to buy it, give their price then the County could purchase It. But we know for various reasons that won't happen.

Finally, it is simply unfair that a Farmer is being squeezed from both ends!!